



Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday, September 11, 2014 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall
MINUTES

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) - Chairman Mark Trahan, Mirella D'Antonio, Joan Hughes, Dorcas McHugh, John Adamian, Judy Keane, Ken Rizzio, Gioia Zack, Stacey Hodges - Chamber of Commerce, Tony Martino - Town Council, Jeff Bridges - Town Manager, Peter Gillespie - Director of Planning and Economic Development & Denise Bradley - Assisted Planner.
3. Old Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates - Peter Gillespie reported on the following properties:
 - 341 Jordan Lane - Actively marketed, signs of interest
 - 125 Silas Deane Hwy - No change, Mirella D'Antonio reported that there is interest in leasing the middle tenant space.
 - 1000 Silas Deane Hwy - Working with the property owner and the town attorney to finalize the STEAP agreement. There is a chance that demolition work will commence in the near future. The STEAP funding is set up as a reimbursement.
 - 1178 Silas Deane Hwy - There has been no contact with interested developers.
 - b. Grant Project Status
 1. Heritage Interpretive Walk – HFGP and CT Humanities - Saturday, May 23, 2015 will be the unveiling event. Compiling the panel edits and graphics.
 2. Church/Main Street Intersection - Peter Gillespie reported that the town had asked the Historical Society to assist in researching the history. That information was just provided to the town this week. Project construction anticipated for Spring 2015.
 3. STEAP 2014 The Town received the grant paperwork from the state. The Council will review for approval. Mark Trahan mentioned putting together an informational brochure.
4. New Business
 - a. Business Directory - ShopWethersfield.biz - Mark Trahan discussed meeting next week to discuss details.
 - b. Business Breakfast - Peter Gillespie discussed previous business breakfast ideas. Contact the Country Club to see if October 22nd or 29th are available.
 - c. Façade Improvement Program and Policy - Peter Gillespie noted that he had distributed the draft recommendations. Ken Rizzio noted that the changes are an enhancement and give clarity to the original language. After EDIC approval, the Town Council would review the changes for approval. A brief discussion ensued and Dorcas McHugh made a motion to approve the revised program policies. John Adamian seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

- d. 25th Annual Salute To Business – December 11 - Peter Gillespie reported that the Marketing Sub-Committee usually meets to discuss the details of the event. We have been looking for a keynote speaker, working on compiling the longevity awards recipients, enhancing the presentation materials including the PowerPoint and entertainment.
 - e. 2014/2015 Election of Officers - Gioia Zack nominated Mark Trahan to continue as chair. John Adamian seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Mark Trahan nominated Gioia Zack as Vice Chairman. Dorcas McHugh seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
 - f. STEAP 2015 - New application deadline approaching. Peter Gillespie wanted to give the EDIC an opportunity to request funds for a particular project. The EDIC made recommendations to request funding for 1178 Silas Deane Hwy, Berlin Turnpike northern and southern gate.
5. Other Business - There was no other business.
6. Reports
 - Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges reported on the opening of WHS and continuing construction. Preparing for abatement to take place over the winter break.
 - Town Council Liaison's Report – Tony Martino reported on the Town Council tour of WHS last week and that the Council is reviewing the year end
 - Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie discussed recently approved Planning and Zoning projects.
 - Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie noted that the Tourism Comisiion is working on a group tour package and a new rack card. They have been focused on the Heritage Trail Project. A new Photo Contest will be released shortly.
 - Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report –Stacey Hodges reported on the following:
Melanie Goodin accepted a full time job. There is currently a temp in place. She noted that the focus is on the Cornfest event. Looking for volunteers to help man the entrance gates. Business after hours at Live Right Wellness.
September 24 Business after Hours at the Wethersfield Historical Society.
 - Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie noted that we have been ins contract with a student from CCSU who is interested in interning in office.
7. Chairman's Report – No additional report was given.
8. Sub-Committee Reports
 - Marketing and Communications - A meeting will be set up in the next few weeks.
 - Financial Strategies – No additional report was given.
9. Minutes – August 14, 2014 Meeting John Adamian made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Ken Rizzio seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Dorcas McHugh abstained.

10. Next Meeting – Thursday October 9, 2014
11. Correspondence - There was no additional correspondence.
12. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner